



U.S. Senator Saxby Chambliss Working For Georgia



2007 Accomplishments

Dear Friend:

My staff and I strive every day to address the issues that are important to you and to the livelihood of our great state. The 2007 year was one of many challenges and successes, and there is a great deal of information and accomplishments I would like to share with you. I hope you will take the time to review the following highlights and share them with your friends and family.

It is an honor to represent you in the U.S. Senate, and I look forward to a continued dialogue with you in 2008. Should you ever need assistance, please do not hesitate to contact me toll free at 1-800-234-4208.

Very truly yours,

Saxby Chambliss

COMMITTED TO CONSTITUENT SERVICE

Casework

It is my top priority to provide Georgians with constituent service that is second to none. Have you ever tried to contact a federal agency? Each day, someone contacts my office looking for assistance in navigating through what can seem like endless hours of government bureaucracy and red tape. My staff includes Constituent Services Representatives who are ready to submit an inquiry on your behalf, whether you are having problems contacting the Social Security Administration, the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services, the Department of Veterans Affairs, the State Department, obtaining a passport for overseas travel, adopting a child internationally, or many other circumstances.

I am proud to report that my caseworkers assisted more than 4,000 constituents in 2007 who needed help. Please do not hesitate to contact one of my Georgia offices toll free at 1-800-234-4208, identify the issue you are calling about, and ask to speak with one of my caseworkers. In each of these cases you will be required to fill out a privacy release form. This form is available on my website at www.chambliss.senate.gov under the "How Can I Help?" section.

I stand ready to assist you.

North Georgia Office:

100 Galleria Parkway
Suite 1340
Atlanta, GA 30339
Phone 770-763-9090
Fax 770-226-8633

East Georgia Office:

1054 Claussen Road, Suite 313
Augusta, GA 30907
Phone 706-738-0302
Fax 706-738-0901

Coastal Georgia Office:

2 East Bryan Street, Suite 620
Savannah, GA 31401
Phone 912-232-3657
Fax 912-233-0115

Middle Georgia Office:

300 Mulberry Street, Suite 502
Macon, GA 31201
Phone 478-741-1417
Fax 478-741-1437

South Georgia Office:

419-A South Main Street
P.O. Box 3217
Moultrie, GA 31776
Phone 229-985-2112
Fax 229-985-2123

Washington, D.C. Office

416 Russell Senate Office Building
Washington, DC 20510
Phone 202-224-3521
Fax 202-224-0103

<http://www.chambliss.senate.gov>

Passport Delays

In 2007, the implementation of the Western Hemisphere Travel Initiative (WHTI), which requires passports for entry into Canada, Mexico, Bermuda and the Caribbean, created a considerable backlog of passport issuances. Because the State Department did not fully anticipate the increase in passport applications and take appropriate action to increase processing resources, the processing time increased from six weeks to an unanticipated three months. This forced many travelers to delay or cancel their travel plans altogether and in some cases suffer considerable financial losses because they did not receive their passports in time.

During this time, I urged U.S. Secretary of State Condoleezza Rice to take immediate action to remedy the backlog. My office worked tirelessly to assist Georgia travelers during this unfortunate situation, and I am pleased to report that in a two and a half month period we helped nearly 1,200 people process their passport applications.



Federal Funding Opportunities for Georgians

This past year, Senator Isakson and I announced more than 159 various grants, loans, and other funding opportunities for many community-based organizations, service groups, and local governments across Georgia. Many local fire departments, wastewater collection and treatment systems, local airports, minority business enterprises, hospitals, and law enforcement communities rely on this federal funding to meet their needs.

I'm pleased to assist Georgians in learning how to secure these types of funding opportunities. It is an example of how the federal government can help jumpstart community initiatives and strengthen local economies. Further information can be found on my website at www.chambliss.senate.gov under the "How Can I Help?" section.

Welcoming Georgians to Washington

Each year, thousands of Georgia families travel to Washington, DC, to see firsthand how our federal government works and to tour the various historical landmarks and museums. My office works to assist numerous constituents with their travel plans, including conducting tours of the U.S. Capitol and arranging tours of the White House. If you are traveling to our Nation's Capital, please let me know how I can help you with your trip. In 2007, I am proud to report that my office conducted 5,565 tours of the U.S. Capitol and arranged 864 tours of the White House based on availability.



Chambliss welcomes Camp Sunshine to the Capitol

WORKING TO SECURE THE BORDER AND STOP ILLEGAL IMMIGRATION

“During last year’s immigration bill debate, we listened and heard overwhelmingly from Georgians that they do not trust the federal government to enforce our immigration laws. Taking immediate action to secure our borders is what Georgians demand and deserve, and it is the best way to restore credibility with the American people. We must secure the borders first and foremost, because that is where the problem originates and where it must be stopped.”

Chambliss Action:

- Fought to have the Isakson border security trigger included in the immigration reform bill so that no immigration reform could take place before the borders were certified to be secure.
- Voted against the final immigration reform bill because it was not good enough for Georgia and senators were not given ample time to debate amendments to strengthen the bill.
- Rejected proposals to provide amnesty for illegal immigrants.
- Repeatedly called on President Bush to send an emergency supplemental spending bill to Congress to fully fund border security before any other immigration reforms are implemented. Also introduced an amendment to the Homeland Security funding bill asking President Bush to submit an emergency supplemental spending bill to Congress to fund border security, which was approved unanimously by the Senate.
- Authored an amendment to the immigration reform bill to preserve and protect Social Security benefits of American workers and to ensure that Congress plays a greater oversight role in totalization agreements. Totalization agreements allow workers who divide their careers between two countries to combine work credits from both countries to qualify for Social Security benefits, and this is unfair.
- Supported an amendment to the Homeland Security appropriations bill that would provide funds to immediately pay for some of the manpower and technology necessary to secure the U.S. border including the following provisions: Achieving full operational control over 100 percent of the U.S.-Mexico land border; Hiring, training and deploying of 23,000 Border Patrol agents; Putting into operation four unmanned aerial vehicles and 105 ground-based radar and camera towers; Constructing 300 miles of permanent vehicle barriers and 700 miles of border fencing; Acquiring 45,000 detention beds to put a permanent end to ‘Catch and Release.’
- Criticized the decision by Congressional Majority Leaders to eliminate \$3 billion in critical border security funding in the Department of Defense Appropriations Conference Report.

WORKING TO ADDRESS GEORGIA’S WATER CRISIS

“Georgia is currently experiencing a severe and historic drought. For the past few years, we have been asking the Corps of Engineers to do something they are legally obligated to do and something that is necessary for responsible operation of Georgia’s river basins. Updating the water control manuals will help ensure that our state has an adequate water supply in the future and will help the Corps make smarter decisions in their management of Georgia’s river systems.”

Chambliss Action:

- Urged the Secretary of the Army to honor his pledge to update the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers’ outdated water control plan for the two river basins that serve Georgia, Alabama and Florida: the Alabama-Coosa-Tallapoosa (ACT) River Basin and the Apalachicola-Chatahoochee-Flint (ACF) River Basin.
- Supported Governor Perdue’s request for the immediate alteration of all ACF reservoir releases, to respond to critical drought conditions and ensure the metro-Atlanta area continued to have an ample supply of safe drinking water.
- Joined Georgia’s congressional delegation in introducing legislation to alleviate the water crisis by allowing states suffering from droughts to be exempt temporarily from the Endangered Species Act, which in Georgia threatens our low water supply by taking away large amounts of water from north Georgia and sending it downstream to protect mussels and sturgeon in Florida.
- Joined with the entire Georgia congressional delegation in sending a letter to President Bush, which Chambliss hand-delivered during a meeting at the White House, urging him to approve Governor Perdue’s request to declare a major disaster area in Georgia and utilize the executive power under the Endangered Species Act to exempt the state from complying with water reservoir releases during unprecedented drought conditions.
- Met with Governor Perdue and Alabama Governor Riley as well as Alabama’s two senators to discuss the water situation affecting the three states. Following the meeting the Corps of Engineers announced it had drafted an interim operating plan that would reduce the minimum flow from Woodruff Dam at Lake Seminole to 4,200 cubic feet per second, with further reductions possible depending on drought conditions.



WORKING TO EXPAND ACCESS TO CHILDREN'S HEALTH INSURANCE

“Georgia’s PeachCare has been held up as a model, and previously uninsured children are now receiving health insurance. When Georgia was faced with a funding shortfall, I worked to find a short term solution for the children of Georgia who depend on this insurance. The State Children’s Health Insurance Program that provides funding for PeachCare should be expanded to ensure coverage for low-income children, and as policymakers we must make certain that this is done in a responsible way, without creating Washington-run health care and without raising taxes.”

Action Items:

- Introduced a bill to fix the SCHIP funding shortfall and provide \$131 million for Georgia for fiscal year 2007. The bill also included a provision to provide less funding for states that currently provide adults health-care with SCHIP funding. Georgia does not fund adults through its PeachCare program.
- Introduced an amendment to the 2007 Budget Resolution to prohibit states from receiving an enhanced SCHIP match rate for adults who are covered under the program.
- Rejected an attempt to shift SCHIP toward a government-run healthcare system funded by a regressive tax increase.
- Supported an alternative proposal to expand SCHIP by \$9.5 billion over the next five years, phase out non-pregnant adults from the program, prevent the addition of any new non-pregnant adults to the program, provide additional funds to target low-income children and encourage the use of premium assistance.
- Co-sponsored an alternative proposal to reauthorize and fully fund the existing SCHIP program for an additional 18 months in order to allow Congress time to steer the SCHIP program back to its original intent of access to healthcare for low-income children while giving the states a significant funding commitment in order to make sound decisions regarding the future of their programs.

Additional Health Action Items:

- Cosponsored “**The Hope Offered through Principled and Ethical Stem Cell Research (HOPE) Act,**” a bill introduced by U.S. Senators Johnny Isakson, R-Ga., and Norm Coleman, R-Minn., that would permit federal funding of scientific research that does not harm viable embryos, but allows research from embryos that have died naturally. The bill passed the Senate in April 2007.
- Cosponsored the “**Universal Health Care Choice and Access Act,**” legislation to transform the health insurance market from being employer-based to one that gives individuals the ability to choose their own plan tailored to their needs. The bill would also restructure the tax code and improve access to health care by eliminating payment hurdles, creating economic incentives to lead more people into the health care field and countering looming physician and nursing shortages.

SUPPORTING GEORGIA AGRICULTURE

Farm Bill

"Passage of the farm bill is a real victory for American agriculture. The legislation will strengthen the nation's food security, protect the livelihood of our farmers and ranchers, preserve our efforts to remain good stewards of the environment, and enhance our nation's energy security efforts. I consider a safe, affordable and abundant food supply a critical national security interest and this bill takes us in the right direction to ensure those priorities."

In December, the Senate approved its version of the farm bill by an unprecedented margin. The farm bill reauthorization process began during Chambliss' time as Chairman of the Senate Agriculture Committee while he and other members listened to the views of producers and organizations from all over Georgia and entire country. Chambliss worked on a bipartisan basis with other members of the Committee to craft a bill that he believes is good for farmers and rural America, and as the process moves closer to completing the farm bill, he is confident farmers and ranchers all across America will have the opportunity to have a safety net that is similar to the 2002 farm bill.

Last Spring Senator Chambliss was presented with the **American Farm Bureau Federation's (AFBF)** top national honor, the **2006 Golden Plow Award**, by Georgia Farm Bureau President Zippy Duvall. The Georgia Farm Bureau nominated him for the award for his commitment to the private enterprise system, having sound agricultural policies and supporting fiscal conservatism. The Golden Plow Award is given to one U.S. Senator and one U.S. Congressman each year.

Supporting Renewable Fuels in Georgia

"Agriculture and energy policy are converging and unlike anytime in the past, farmers and ranchers are producing food, fiber and fuel. Becoming energy independent from foreign countries is a matter of national security."

- Introduced legislation, **The Cellulosic Ethanol Incentive Act of 2007**, to help diversify commodities used to make biofuels while increasing America's energy security.
- Supported plans to build Georgia's first wood-based ethanol plant in **Treutlen County** and urged the U.S. Department of Energy to invest in the facility. Range Fuels, Inc., a Colorado-based cellulosic ethanol company, announced the plans in Soperton last year and the Energy Department will invest up to \$76 million in federal funds for the plant over the next four years that will create new jobs in the area.



Groundbreaking at the First United Ethanol, LLC plant in Mitchell County

Working to Improve Nutrition Assistance Programs

"Reforming food stamp asset limits has the potential to help needy families break the cycle of poverty and achieve long-term financial independence."



Meeting with Bill Bolling, Executive Director of the Atlanta Community Food Bank

- Introduced legislation to help food stamp beneficiaries become financially independent. Sen. Chambliss' plan, the **Food Stamp Savings and Investment Act of 2007**, would index the food stamp liquid asset limits to inflation and provide more opportunities for participating families to save for retirement and higher education.
- Chaired a full committee field hearing at the **Atlanta Community Food Bank** to hear from witnesses on federal food and nutrition assistance programs in the next farm bill. Under the nutrition title, the food stamp program provides food assistance to millions of Americans and has been a key component of the farm bill reauthorization debate.

ADVOCATING FOR DISASTER RELIEF

“Georgia certainly experienced a number of natural disasters, from devastating tornadoes and storms to wildfires, an unprecedented drought and winter freeze. While those of us in public service can’t legislate the weather, we can certainly assist with the recovery process.”

Responded to Severe Storms and Tornadoes:

- Following the March 1, 2007, severe storms and tornadoes that devastated numerous counties in Southwest Georgia, including those around the Americus area and in Baker County, Chambliss toured the damage on the ground and expressed support for Georgia Governor Sonny Perdue’s request for an expedited major federal disaster declaration from President Bush for the counties affected.
- Worked to secure funding for a temporary replacement for Sumter Regional Hospital that was severely damaged and the adjacent HealthPlex that was destroyed during the storms. Countless Georgians rely on this facility for their health care needs so addressing the displacement of this facility has been a top priority. The U.S. Department of Homeland Security’s Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) is providing \$9.3 million in funding for a temporary replacement.
- Worked with the Centers for Medicaid and Medicare Services and others to create a solution that would allow Sumter Regional Hospital to retain physicians in the area following the storms.



Looking at storm damage in Americus

Responded to Wildfires

- Following wildfires that spread across Southeast Georgia, met with officials from the Georgia Forestry Commission, Georgia Emergency Management Agency, U.S. Forest Service, as well as other local and state officials.
- Visited the Incident Command site located in Ware County, observed air tanker operations, and viewed additional areas in Brantley, Charlton, and Atkinson counties.

Fought for Drought and Freeze Assistance

- Supported Governor Perdue’s request for a Secretarial disaster designation for all eligible Georgia counties affected by severe freezing conditions that occurred April 6-9, 2007. Most of Georgia’s early season crops were devastated by the freezing temperatures, but this declaration will help assist producers affected by this disaster. Producers in 152 counties were eligible to be considered for low-interest emergency loans from the Farm Service Agency.
- Urged swift approval and support of the **Georgia State Emergency Board’s** request for a disaster declaration for all 159 counties in Georgia affected by extreme drought conditions. The U.S. Secretary of Agriculture approved the designation, making farm operators eligible for low-interest emergency loans from the Farm Service Agency for 158 Georgia counties.

WORKING TO STRENGTHEN HOMELAND SECURITY

- Worked to have Georgia included in the short list of candidates for the **National Bio and Agro-Defense Facility (NBAF)**. The U.S. Department of Homeland Security (DHS) has narrowed the field to five states, including Georgia. According to DHS, the NBAF would address the federal government’s need for research and development space to meet threats from emerging disease pandemics and bio-and agro-terrorism. The facility will not only generate jobs and economic activity but will also cement the state’s leadership position in the life sciences and agriculture industries. A Carl Vinson Institute of Government analysis estimates the NBAF’s 20-year impact at \$1.5 billion to \$2.5 billion in wages/salaries, and an estimated \$3.5 billion to \$6 billion in overall economic impact.
- Cosponsored a bipartisan amendment to delay implementation of the Real ID Act by two years because of constraints the legislation has put on states. Instead of mandating compliance by May 2008, states including Georgia will now have until December 31, 2009 to comply with the Real ID requirements. In addition, Georgia will be able to use up to 20% of its Homeland Security Grants Program funds for Real ID compliance efforts.
- Urged the Transportation Security Administration (TSA) to work with Atlanta airport officials to improve efficiency at Hartsfield-Jackson Atlanta International Airport security checkpoints. Wait times for security lines had increased as airports witnessed record travel numbers last summer.

- As a member of the Senate Select Committee on Intelligence, Chambliss worked with members of the committee in crafting legislation to update the **Foreign Intelligence Surveillance Act (FISA)** in order to ensure America's ability to collect intelligence and disrupt terrorist plots.

- Sponsored bipartisan legislation to assist law enforcement personnel in Georgia and across America by creating a special, rural-focused law enforcement training institute. Rural law enforcement agencies often face a difficult challenge in receiving up-to-date training, with tight budgets and small staffs frequently forced to make a choice between training opportunities and keeping officers on the street. **The Rural Policing Institute** would be administered by the Department of Homeland Security's Federal Law Enforcement Training Center (FLETC), located in Glynco, Georgia.

Continued to Lead the Fight for Law Enforcement Funding

"I have heard firsthand from law enforcement officials in Georgia and those who work in the judicial system about the effectiveness of the Edward Byrne Memorial Justice Assistance Grant Program. I am proud to lead the bipartisan effort in the Senate to ensure that this critical program receives robust funding. The Byrne/JAG Program provides support to state and local drug task forces, community crime prevention programs, substance abuse treatment programs, prosecution initiatives, and many other local crime control programs."

Action Items:

- Introduced and passed legislation in the Senate to reauthorize the Byrne/JAG Program at \$1.095 billion per year through 2012.
- Urged the Senate Budget Committee to include full funding for the Byrne/JAG Program in the 2007 Senate Budget Resolution.
- Wrote a letter, co-signed by 32 other senators, urging the Appropriations Committee to fully fund the Byrne/JAG Program.
- Offered an amendment to the 2007 Senate Budget Resolution to provide \$900 million in formula funding for the Byrne/JAG Program, which was accepted unanimously.

WORKING TO STRENGTHENING THE GEORGIA ECONOMY

Delta Air Lines

"For more than 60 years, Delta Air Lines has thrived as a leading employer of countless Georgians and has established itself as an economic engine for Georgia and the Southeast."

- Opposed the hostile takeover bid by U.S. Airways to merge with Delta Air Lines and urged the Senate Commerce Committee to hold a hearing to ensure that the content and potential effects of the proposal were carefully examined.

- Cosponsored legislation that became public law to increase the mandatory retirement age for U.S. airline pilots from age 60 to age 65 so that more experienced pilots can be kept flying. Georgia is home to many pilots, and until now they have been denied the right to work until age 65 - a privilege granted to international pilots who fly in American airspace.



Rally in Support of Delta Air Lines

Helping Rural Communities

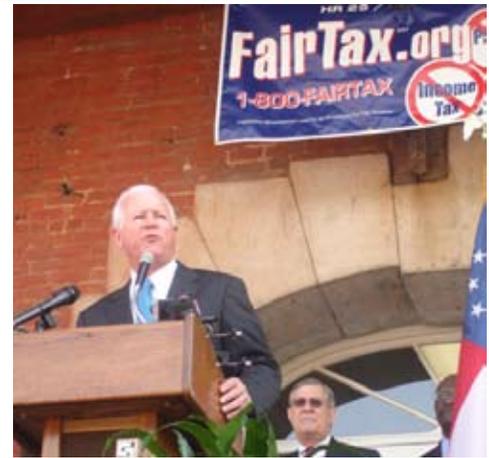
- Voted to override a presidential veto of water resources legislation that included authorization for more than \$127 million in critical water infrastructure projects in Georgia. **The Water Resources Development Act (WRDA)** authorizes Army Corps of Engineers projects addressing regional water planning, water storage, flood control, storm protection, environmental restoration and inland navigation.

- Cosponsored the **Southeast Crescent Authority (SECA) Act**, legislation to help remedy severe and chronic economic distress in areas of Georgia and elsewhere in the Southeast U.S. The program would provide grants to states in the Southeast to spur economic development, establish priorities in development planning, support local development districts, and encourage private investment in the region.

- Continued to urge for North Georgians to have representation on the **Tennessee Valley Authority (TVA)**, which delivers power to some 123,000 households in North Georgia. In July 2007, President Bush nominated Thomas Gilliland of Blairsville, Georgia, to serve on the TVA board of directors. He is the first Georgian ever nominated and was recommended by Chambliss and Senator Johnny Isakson, R-Ga.

REJECTING TAX INCREASES AND SUPPORTING TAX RELIEF

- Opposed a budget proposal that would have included the largest tax increase in history.
- Supported proposals to make the 2001 and 2003 tax cuts permanent.
- Cosponsored the **Teacher Tax Credit Act of 2007**, legislation to provide a tax deduction for teachers who spend their own money on school supplies.
- Cosponsored the **Tax Code Termination Act**, legislation introduced by Sen. Johnny Isakson, R-Ga., to eliminate the current tax code and force Congress to create one that is more fair and simple.
- Re-introduced the **Fair Tax Act** in the U.S. Senate. In April 2007, Chambliss, U.S. Rep. John Linder, R-Ga., and others held a grassroots rally in support of the legislation.



Rallying for Support of the Fair Tax

WORKING TO REDUCE FEDERAL SPENDING

- Supported **transparency in the appropriations process and earmark reform**, and has made federal funding requests available for public review.
- Cosponsored the United States Authorization and Sunset Commission Act, legislation **establishing a Commission to identify and eliminate waste, duplication, and inefficiency in government agencies**.
- Cosponsored the **Stop Over-Spending Act**, legislation to curb federal spending, reduce the deficit and balance the budget, and target wasteful spending.

WORKING FOR OUR TROOPS AND NATIONAL SECURITY



With General David Petraeus at a Senate Armed Services Committee hearing.

“The U.S. Senate unanimously confirmed General Petraeus to carry out the new strategy in Iraq, and we must continue to support him and our men and women in the field.”

Chambliss Action:

- Voted against timelines for withdrawal from Iraq and resolutions disapproving of the president’s new strategy in Iraq. Traveled to Iraq in May and November in 2007 to observe progress on the ground and spent Thanksgiving with Georgia troops.
- Cosponsored legislation to provide \$535 million in military construction projects for Georgia.
- As a member of the Senate Armed Services Committee, played a role in drafting the 2008 National Defense Authorization Act, which authorized \$490 million in funding for military construction at Georgia bases – the sixth largest amount in the nation. The bill also authorized a pay raise for military personnel, funding to enhance quality of life, and funding for Georgia-made weapons systems.

Secured Funding for New Software Facility at Robins Air Force Base

Robins Air Force Base is an economic engine for Middle Georgia and the work performed there greatly enhances our national security. Currently, the software facilities at Robins are at full capacity with no room for the anticipated future workload. Recognizing this important need, one of Senator Chambliss’ highest priorities has been to secure the funding needed to support a new facility. Working with U.S. Rep. Jim Marshall, D-Ga., they secured the \$21 million needed for a new facility that will ensure Robins’ place as an even more capable center for maintaining and improving the performance of Air Force weapon systems. Construction began in late October 2007 and the estimated project completion date is October 2009.

Urged Action on Military Housing Delays

- Urged the U.S. Air Force to take action to resolve the privatized housing situation at Moody Air Force Base and called for the reimbursement of subcontractors in states who have been left with thousands of dollars in unpaid bills. The Air Force's poor decision to award multi-million dollar contracts to a questionable company has now led to stalled military housing projects and unpaid subcontractors in Georgia, Arkansas, Florida and Massachusetts.
- Introduced legislation directing the Comptroller General to submit a report to Congress on any housing privatization transactions that are behind schedule or in default, as well as remedies available to the federal government to restore the transaction to schedule or completion. The legislation was unanimously approved as an amendment to the Fiscal Year 2008 National Defense Authorization Act.
- Introduced bipartisan legislation with Sen. Mark Pryor, D-Arkansas, to enhance the oversight of housing privatization projects.

Other Action:

- Urged Defense Secretary Robert Gates to continue procurement of the F-22A Raptor following completion of the current multi-year procurement contract. The F-22A Raptor is the world's only 5th Generation Fighter line currently in full-rate production. Final assembly for the F-22 is performed in Marietta, Georgia, employing numerous Georgians.
- Continued to advocate for additional Georgia-made weapons systems including the C-130J, C-17, and C-5 aircrafts. Production and maintenance of these aircraft in Marietta, Macon, and Warner Robins employs thousands of Georgians.
- Hosted statewide Military Academy Day event to familiarize students with the application and nomination process for applying to the nation's five service academies.
- Was honored with a national award for his commitment and dedication to the National Guard Youth ChalleNGe program, a 17-month, co-ed program for 16 to 18-year-old high school dropouts that offers them the opportunity to enhance their life skills, earn their GED, pursue higher education, improve their employment potential and broaden their chances at success.

Secured Legislation for National Guard and Reserve

The President signed into law two pieces of legislation authored by Senator Chambliss to enhance the quality of life for members of the National Guard and Reserve and their families, including:

- **“The National Guard and Reserve Retirement Modernization Act,”** which reduces the age for receipt of retirement pay by three months (counting down from age 60) for every 90 days a Guard or Reserve member spends on active duty in support of a contingency operation. It also includes time spent on active service for purposes of responding to a national emergency declared by the president or supported by federal funds. Until it became law, National Guard and Reserve members were the only federal retirees required to wait until age 60 to collect retirement pay.
- **“The Yellow Ribbon Reintegration Program,”** which provides continuous support to our deploying service members by creating a national combat veteran reintegration program to provide military personnel and their families with support services during their entire deployment cycle. Support includes assistance with financial planning and education, small business planning, marriage counseling, community outreach, and veteran benefits education upon a service member's return from combat duty. The program is modeled after the Yellow Ribbon Program in Minnesota.



Thanksgiving dinner with troops in Iraq

SUPPORTING GEORGIA VETERANS

- Supported legislation authorizing \$20.5 million in funding to expand and upgrade infrastructure needs at the **Veterans Affairs Medical Center in Atlanta**.
- Introduced legislation to rename the Augusta Veterans Affairs facility as the **“Charlie Norwood Department of Veterans Affairs Medical Center,”** in honor of the late U.S. Rep. Charlie Norwood, R-Ga., who passed away on February 13, 2007.
- Introduced legislation to allow more schools to participate in the **“Troops to Teachers”** program. Since 1994, the program has certified and placed almost 10,000 veterans into high-need schools across the nation. It eases the transition for veterans as they move into civilian life, and young people benefit from the valuable experience and knowledge they bring to the classroom.

- Assisted Georgia World War II veterans with their trip to Washington, DC, as part of Honor Flight, a non-profit organization dedicated to helping senior veterans travel to our Nation's Capital to visit and reflect at their memorials.

Secured Legislation for Wounded Warriors

- Introduced the bipartisan Wounded Warrior Assistance Act of 2007 to ensure the medical needs of wounded servicemen and women are properly met and that bureaucracy does not interfere with their progress. Components of the bill were included in the 2008 National Defense Authorization Act signed into law.
- Urged clearer transition between the Department of Defense and Department of Veterans Affairs when soldiers are retired or separated from the military and enter the VA Health Care system. During an Armed Services Committee hearing, Chambliss criticized the current medical hold and hold-over process that is cumbersome, bureaucratic, and difficult to maneuver. He also urged improvements through the use of more adequately trained personnel, better administrative procedures, and better facilities to house wounded and recovering service members.



Veterans from Georgia in Washington, DC at the World War II Memorial in August 2007.

- Advocated for and recognized the Augusta area for its strong commitment to wounded warrior care and the collaboration between the Eisenhower Medical Center at Fort Gordon, the Medical College of Georgia, and the Charlie Norwood VA. Urged the Secretary of the Army, Secretary of Veterans Affairs, and Undersecretary of Defense for Personnel to explore how Georgia's Augusta area can be further enhanced as a center of excellence for wounded warrior care.

Other Chambliss Provisions Signed into Law:

- A provision directing the Department of Defense to review recent findings regarding progesterone and the treatment of **Traumatic Brain Injury (TBI)**. It also directs the Department of Defense to collaborate with other federal agencies regarding research and clinical trials related to TBI.
- A provision requiring the Secretaries of the military departments to develop a strategy that incorporates the best practices for recruiting, hiring, and retaining medical and health care personnel. This will reduce the time required to fill vacancies and will inform and educate personnel responsible for recruiting medical and health care professionals.
- A provision requiring a study and report on personnel shortages in the mental health field and to incorporate a study on shortages across the entire healthcare profession.
- A provision authorizing military personnel to carry over 75 (rather than 60) days of leave per year and authorizing certain high deploying members to carry over 90 days and have up to four years to use it.



Visiting with troops at Fort Stewart

Veterans Facilities Growing in Georgia

Chambliss has been a strong supporter of funding for veterans' needs in the Senate. The U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs is scheduled to open a new center in Macon on March 27, 2008 as part of its nationwide expansion on Vet Centers. This new facility will serve as a critical resource for all Macon area combat veterans and their families by providing access to community-based services such as mental health and employment counseling, services on family issues and education, bereavement and outreach assistance. The center in Macon will be staffed by a small team of counselors, outreach specialists and other specialists

This past year, the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs opened a community-based outpatient clinic in Rome. This new facility is in addition to the clinics that already operate in Georgia and will provide our veterans with easier access to non-emergency medical care. Additionally, community-based outpatient clinics are expected to open in Milledgeville, Brunswick, and Stockbridge later this year. An Outreach Center in Perry is also expected to become operational in the near future.

If you need assistance with the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs, please contact one of my Georgia offices toll free at 1-800-234-4208.

Advocated for POW/MIAs

In August 2007, Chambliss led a congressional delegation to **Vietnam** where he met with national leaders and urged increased cooperation in accounting for POW/MIAs from the Vietnam War and providing the U.S. access to relevant Vietnam War-era documents. Senator Chambliss is a member of the US-Russia Joint Commission on POW/MIA Affairs and is co-chairman of the Vietnam War working group.

PROTECTING OUR COASTAL SECURITY, ECONOMY AND ENVIRONMENT

Secured Funding for Port Security

The Port of Savannah is one of the busiest ports in the nation. In October 2006 Chambliss visited the port where he called on Department of Homeland Security Secretary Michael Chertoff to explain why Georgia had been excluded from the previous two port security funding rounds. Following months of dialogue with the Department, the Georgia Ports Authority (GPA), U.S. Coast Guard and Customs officials, it was announced that as part of the Fiscal Year 2007 Port Security Grant Program the Savannah area would receive \$3,914,120, with \$1,944,088 provided for the Georgia Ports Authority. Additionally, funding included \$286,388 for the Brunswick area, with \$261,450 provided for the Georgia Ports Authority.

- Secured \$6,319,000 in federal funding to provide for **Tybee Island beach re-nourishment**.

- Urged U.S. Department of Energy Secretary Samuel Bodman to take action to ensure the **Savannah River Ecology Lab (SREL)** at the Savannah River Site (SRS) remains operational.

- Secured \$1,900,000 in funding for the **Atlantic Intracoastal Waterway Association** to dredge problem areas in the Georgia area. There are more than 27 shoaling spots considered dangerous by the Corps of Engineers and the U.S. Coast Guard, creating the possibility that some sections of the Intracoastal Waterway in Georgia will close.



Calling for Port Security Funding in Savannah

- Secured \$980,000 for the **Glynn County Airport Commission** to improve infrastructure.

- Urged the U.S. Department of Commerce to take action to protect the **U.S. shrimp industry** against unfair trade imports. The U.S. shrimp industry is an important part of the economy and culture of coastal Georgia.



Discussing beach re-nourishment on Tybee Island with the mayor

URGING NATIONAL RECOGNITION FOR GEORGIANS

Chambliss and Georgia colleague, U.S. Sen. Johnny Isakson, secured several Senate Resolutions recognizing Georgians during 2007, including:

- A Resolution unanimously approved in October 2007 designating “**National Historically Black Colleges and Universities Week.**” There are 10 HBCUs in the state of Georgia.

- A Resolution designating Sunday, November 25, 2007, as “**Drive Safer Sunday**” and encouraging motorists, trucking firms and law enforcement agencies to work together to make the roads safer for all travelers during the holidays and throughout the year. The senators have introduced similar resolutions in the previous years in honor of Cullum Owings, a Georgia college student who died in a traffic accident on his way back to school after Thanksgiving 2002. Owings’ parents founded an organization called Road Safe America, and awareness of “Drive Safer Sunday” continues to grow nationwide.

- A Resolution honoring the **Warner Robins American Little League Team** for winning the 61st Annual Little League Baseball World Series Championship. The senators hosted the team, coaches, and parents during a trip to Washington, DC.

- A Resolution congratulating **Valdosta State University** on winning the Division II National Championship.